

words to "Minnesota Technology, Inc." or similar words. The revisor shall make other necessary changes to Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules to effectuate section 18.

Sec. 20. **REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 1990, sections 116J.970, 116J.971, and 116O.03, subdivision 2a, are repealed.

Sec. 21. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 to 20 are effective July 1, 1991.

Presented to the governor May 30, 1991

Signed by the governor June 3, 1991, 9:52 a.m.

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**CHAPTER 323—H.F.No. 459**

*An act relating to crimes; providing that a claimant in a forfeiture proceeding does not have to pay a filing fee; providing for appointment of qualified interpreters in forfeiture proceedings; amending Minnesota Statutes 1990, sections 609.531, subdivision 1; 609.5314, subdivisions 2 and 3; 611.31; and 611.32.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1, Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 609.531, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of sections 609.531 to 609.5317, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(a) "Conveyance device" means a device used for transportation and includes, but is not limited to, a motor vehicle, trailer, snowmobile, airplane, and vessel and any equipment attached to it. The term "conveyance device" does not include property which is, in fact, itself stolen or taken in violation of the law.

(b) "Weapon used" means a weapon used in the furtherance of a crime and defined as a dangerous weapon under section 609.02, subdivision 6.

(c) "Property" means property as defined in section 609.52, subdivision 1, clause (1).

(d) "Contraband" means property which is illegal to possess under Minnesota law.

(e) "Appropriate agency" means the bureau of criminal apprehension, the

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Minnesota state patrol, a county sheriff's department, the suburban Hennepin regional park district park rangers, the department of natural resources division of enforcement, the University of Minnesota police department, or a city or airport police department.

(f) "Designated offense" includes:

(1) for weapons used: any violation of this chapter;

(2) for all other purposes: a felony violation of, or a felony-level attempt or conspiracy to violate, section 609.185; 609.19; 609.195; 609.21; 609.221; 609.222; 609.223; 609.2231; 609.24; 609.245; 609.25; 609.255; 609.322; 609.342, subdivision 1, clauses (a) to (f); 609.343, subdivision 1, clauses (a) to (f); 609.344, subdivision 1, clauses (a) to (e), and (h) to (j); 609.345, subdivision 1, clauses (a) to (e), and (h) to (j); 609.42; 609.425; 609.466; 609.485; 609.487; 609.52; 609.525; 609.53; 609.54; 609.551; 609.561; 609.562; 609.563; 609.582; 609.59; 609.595; 609.631; 609.671, subdivisions 3, 4, and 5; 609.687; 609.821; 609.825; 609.86; 609.88; 609.89; 237.73; 617.246; or a gross misdemeanor or felony violation of section 609.891.

(g) "Controlled substance" has the meaning given in section 152.01, subdivision 4.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 609.5314, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **ADMINISTRATIVE FORFEITURE PROCEDURE.** (a) Forfeiture of property described in subdivision 1 is governed by this subdivision. When seizure occurs, or within a reasonable time after that, all persons known to have an ownership or possessory interest in seized property must be notified of the seizure and the intent to forfeit the property. In the case of a motor vehicle required to be registered under chapter 168, notice mailed by certified mail to the address shown in department of public safety records is deemed sufficient notice to the registered owner.

(b) Notice may otherwise be given in the manner provided by law for service of a summons in a civil action. The notice must be in writing and contain:

(1) a description of the property seized;

(2) the date of seizure;

(3) notice of the right to obtain judicial review of the forfeiture; and

(4) notice of the procedure for obtaining that judicial review of the forfeiture, printed in English, Hmong, and Spanish. Substantially the following language must appear conspicuously: "IF YOU DO NOT DEMAND JUDICIAL REVIEW EXACTLY AS PRESCRIBED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 609.5314, SUBDIVISION 3, YOU LOSE THE RIGHT TO A JUDICIAL DETERMINATION OF THIS FORFEITURE AND YOU LOSE ANY RIGHT YOU MAY HAVE TO THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY. YOU MAY

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NOT HAVE TO PAY THE FILING FEE FOR THE DEMAND IF DETERMINED YOU ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD THE FEE. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY THE FILING FEE IF THE PROPERTY IS WORTH LESS THAN \$500 AND YOU FILE YOUR CLAIM IN CONCILIATION COURT."

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 609.5314, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **JUDICIAL DETERMINATION.** (a) Within 60 days following service of a notice of seizure and forfeiture under this section, a claimant may file a demand for a judicial determination of the forfeiture. The demand must be in the form of a civil complaint and must be filed with the court administrator in the county in which the seizure occurred, together with proof of service of a copy of the complaint on the county attorney for that county, and the standard filing fee for civil actions unless the petitioner has the right to sue in forma pauperis under section 563.01. If the value of the seized property is less than \$500, the claimant may file an action in conciliation court for recovery of the seized property without paying the conciliation court filing fee. No responsive pleading is required of the county attorney and no court fees may be charged for the county attorney's appearance in the matter. The proceedings are governed by the rules of civil procedure.

(b) The complaint must be captioned in the name of the claimant as plaintiff, the seized property as defendant, and must state with specificity the grounds on which the claimant alleges the property was improperly seized and stating the plaintiff's interest in the property seized. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an action for the return of property seized under this section may not be maintained by or on behalf of any person who has been served with a notice of seizure and forfeiture unless the person has complied with this subdivision.

(c) If the claimant makes a timely demand for judicial determination under this subdivision, the appropriate agency must conduct the forfeiture under section 609.531, subdivision 6a.

(d) If a demand for judicial determination of an administrative forfeiture is filed under this subdivision and the court orders the return of the seized property, the court shall order that filing fees be reimbursed to the person who filed the demand. In addition, the court may order the payment of reasonable costs, expenses, and attorney fees under section 549.21, subdivision 2. If the court orders payment of these costs, they must be paid from forfeited money or proceeds from the sale of forfeited property from the appropriate law enforcement and prosecuting agencies in the same proportion as they would be distributed under section 609.5315, subdivision 5.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 611.31, is amended to read:

**611.31 HANDICAPPED PERSON.**

For the purposes of sections 611.30 to 611.34, "person handicapped in com-

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munication" means a person who: (a) because of a hearing, speech or other communication disorder, or (b) because of difficulty in speaking or comprehending the English language, cannot fully understand the proceedings or any charges made against the person, or the seizure of the person's property, or is incapable of presenting or assisting in the presentation of a defense.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 611.32, is amended to read:

**611.32 PROCEEDINGS WHERE INTERPRETER APPOINTED.**

**Subdivision 1. PROCEEDINGS AND PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING POSSIBLE CRIMINAL SANCTIONS OR CONFINEMENT.** In any proceeding in which a person handicapped in communication may be subjected to confinement ~~or~~, criminal sanction, or forfeiture of the person's property, and in any proceeding preliminary to that proceeding, including corner's inquest, grand jury proceedings, and proceedings relating to mental health commitments, the presiding judicial officer shall appoint a qualified interpreter to assist the person handicapped in communication and any witness handicapped in communication throughout the proceedings.

**Subd. 2. PROCEEDINGS AT TIME OF APPREHENSION OR ARREST.** Following the apprehension or arrest of a person handicapped in communication for an alleged violation of a criminal law, the arresting officer, sheriff or other law enforcement official shall immediately make necessary contacts to obtain a qualified interpreter and shall obtain an interpreter at the earliest possible time at the place of detention. A law enforcement officer shall, with the assistance of the interpreter, explain to the person handicapped in communication, all charges filed against the person, and all procedures relating to the person's detainment and release. If the property of a person is seized under section 609.531, subdivision 4, the seizing officer, sheriff, or other law enforcement official shall, upon request, make available to the person at the earliest possible time a qualified interpreter to assist the person in understanding the possible consequences of the seizure and the person's right to judicial review. If the seizure is governed by section 609.5314, subdivision 2, a request for an interpreter must be made within 15 days after service of the notice of seizure and forfeiture. For a person who requests an interpreter under this section because of a seizure of property under section 609.5314, the 60 days for filing a demand for a judicial determination of a forfeiture begins when the interpreter is provided. The interpreter shall also assist the person with all other communications, including communications relating to needed medical attention. Prior to interrogating or taking the statement of the person handicapped in communication, the arresting officer, sheriff, or other law enforcement official shall make available to the person a qualified interpreter to assist the person throughout the interrogation or taking of a statement.

Presented to the governor May 30, 1991

Signed by the governor June 3, 1991, 9:50 a.m.

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